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LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MAURITANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you below the text of the statement concerning the new developments in the Gulf region made at Nouakchott on 18 January 1991 by the Minister of Information, speaking on behalf of the Mauritanian Government:

"The Gulf crisis has now entered a particularly dangerous phase.

"Since Thursday, 17 January 1991, Iraq has been the target of serious aggression.

"From the condemnation and embargo decided upon by the United Nations to the blockade and the deployment of a highly sophisticated and impressive military arsenal in the region, no means of demonstrating the firm resolve to destroy Iraq and its economic and military potential has been neglected. All of this has rapidly gone beyond the proclaimed objective of liberating Kuwait.

"Under these exceptionally serious circumstances, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which has in the past expressed in connection with this crisis its rejection of the occupation of Kuwait as well as its condemnation of the presence of foreign forces in the region, cannot refrain from its duty of condemning this aggression and reaffirming its solidarity with the Iraqi people in this ordeal.

"The Arab nation, the Islamic Ummah and all peace-loving peoples who espouse the cause of justice must without further delay acknowlege the extent of the risks and work actively for an immediate halt to the hostilities and the installation of a climate of peace and security which can guarantee the solution by peaceful means of all the region's problems."

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Mohamedou OULD MOHAMED MAHMOUD
Permanent Representative